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Letter dated 15 April 1994 from the Chargé d'affaires a.i. of the Permanent Mission of Yugoslavia to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General

I have the honour to transmit herewith a letter from Mr. Radoje Kontić, Prime Minister of the Federal Republic of Yugoslavia, addressed to you.

I should be grateful if you would have the present letter and its annex circulated as a document of the General Assembly, under item 72 of the preliminary list, and of the Security Council.

(Signed) Dragomir DJOKIĆ
Ambassador
Chargé d'affaires a.i.

* A/49/50.

ANNEX

Letter dated 14 April 1994 from the Prime Minister of Yugoslavia to the Secretary-General

The Government of the Federal Republic of Yugoslavia and the entire Yugoslav public received with dismay and deep disappointment your decision and the act of NATO aerial bombardment of the Serb positions in the region of Gorazde.

Particularly surprising are the manner and procedure which you decided to follow, disregarding the factual state of affairs and the elements contained in relevant Security Council resolutions concerning safe areas, including daily field reports of the United Nations Protection Force (UNPROFOR), which hardly warranted this disproportionate and brutal action. In saying this, we have in mind Security Council resolutions 824 (1993) and 836 (1993), inter alia, authorizing UNPROFOR, in pursuit of its mandate and acting in self-defence and in order to protect the safe areas, to take necessary measures, including force, as a response to non-observance of the safe area by any party, which was not respected in this case. In point of fact, following continuous provocations of the Moslem army from the safe areas, the Serb side in Bosnia and Herzegovina was forced to react, of which UNPROFOR in the field is aware, yet the United Nations went over these important facts silently for the umpteenth time and unilaterally ordered retaliation against Bosnian Serbs. The United Nations called in NATO bombers precisely at the time when the Serb side was ready to conclude an agreement on an unconditional, immediate and lasting cessation of all hostilities in the entire territory of Bosnia and Herzegovina, while the Moslem side puts its condition on it in an attempt to maintain the possibility of continuing war.

Particularly disappointing is the fact that the United Nations, which has the obligation under the United Nations Charter to maintain peace and security, has taken a step which alters the very essence of the peace operation and transforms the peace-keeping mission into war operations in favour of one of the belligerent parties.

All this arouses serious concern since a negative development of the situation was initiated at a time when peace was within our grasp, while the responsibility for it rests with all those who participated in the adoption of this unuseful and harmful decision. By this decision the United Nations has abandoned neutrality in dealing with the crisis in Bosnia and Herzegovina, which constitutes a dangerous precedent for United Nations acts in peace operations all over the world.

For all these reasons, the Government of the Federal Republic of Yugoslavia is forced to lodge a strong protest to you, as Secretary-General of the United Nations, who, as the first man of the world Organization is invested with the responsibility for world peace and security.

United Nations departure from its basic principles aids and abets those factors which have clearly opted for war in Bosnia and Herzegovina and, by

extension, for the escalation of war in the territory of the former Socialist Federal Republic of Yugoslavia with unforeseeable consequences for the broader region of the Balkans. United Nations behaviour as a party to the conflict and adoption of an extremely biased position towards the conflict in Bosnia and Herzegovina, as well as towards the Yugoslav crisis in general, reassures these forces in their conviction that they may go even further in their warmongering since they have the United Nations on their side.

The Government of the Federal Republic of Yugoslavia wishes to reiterate also on this occasion its readiness to continue to cooperate with the United Nations, which is being continuously borne out by its active participation in, and contribution to, the resolution of the Yugoslav crisis, despite the extremely partial attitude of some influential members of the world Organization and the said precedents, which cannot create the confidence that is the basis of normal cooperation.

It is believed that the concern of the Government of the Federal Republic of Yugoslavia, its protest and criticism will be understood as a sincere desire to avoid a further deterioration of the situation and possible tragic consequences and that you will pledge your best efforts that we all find a speedy, just solution, acceptable to all involved parties, for the cessation of war in former Bosnia and Herzegovina.

(Signed) Radoje KONTIĆ